CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus comprising:

a master system;

a slave system including a programmable interface coupled to the master system; and

a storage mechanism, external to and coupled to the programmable interface, for storing a remote boot image;

wherein the master system is configured to update the programmable interface to retrieve the remote boot image.

2. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the storage mechanism is a memory.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the master system includes the storage mechanism.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the programmable interface includes a system controller; and

wherein the master system is configured to update the system controller to redirect a boot image retrieval request from the slave system to the master system.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the master system includes a master system controller; and

wherein the master system is further configured to program the master system controller to redirect the boot image retrieval request to the storage mechanism.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a second slave system coupled to the programmable interface; and

wherein the second slave system includes the storage mechanism.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a boot image server coupled to the programmable interface; and

wherein the boot image server includes the storage mechanism.

8. An apparatus comprising:

a master system including a storage mechanism for storing a first remote boot image and a second remote image;

a first slave system including a first programmable interface coupled to the master system; and

a second slave system including a second programmable interface coupled to the master system;

wherein the master system is configured to update the first programmable interface to retrieve the first remote boot image; and

wherein the master system is configured to update the second programmable interface to retrieve the second remote boot image.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the first programmable interface includes a first system controller; and

wherein the master system is configured to update the first system controller to redirect a first boot image retrieval request from the first slave system to the master system.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the second programmable interface includes a second system controller; and

wherein the master system is configured to update the second system controller to redirect a second boot image retrieval request from the second slave system to the master system.

11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the master system includes a master system controller; and

wherein the master system is further configured to program the master system controller to redirect the first boot image retrieval request to the access first remote boot image in the storage mechanism.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, the master system is further configured to program the master system controller to redirect the second boot image retrieval request to access the second remote boot image in the storage mechanism.

13. A method comprising:

booting a master system;

programming a slave controller to relay a boot request from a slave processor to a master system controller;

programming the master system controller to relay the boot request to a storage mechanism;

programming the master system controller to relay a boot image from the storage mechanism to the slave controller;

programming the slave controller to relay the boot image to the slave processor or memory associated with the slave processor; and

booting the slave processor with the boot image.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said programming the slave controller to relay the boot request includes assigning one or more addresses to the slave controller.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein said programming the slave controller to relay the boot request includes programming the slave controller to allow access to one or more internal registers of the slave controller.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein said programming the master controller to relay the boot request includes programming the master controller to redirect slave boot addresses.

17. The method of claim 13, comprising releasing the slave processor from a reset condition.

18. The method of claim 13, comprising determining a corresponding boot software for the slave processor.

19. The method of claim 18, comprising identifying the slave processor.

20. An apparatus comprising:

means for redirecting a boot operation of a remote system;

means for storing a remote boot image; and

means for providing the remote boot image to the remote system.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said means for redirecting and said means for storing are included in separate systems of the apparatus.

22. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said means for storing the remote boot image includes a file server.

23. An apparatus comprising:

a first remote system including a first means for booting;

a second remote system including a second means for booting; and

a master system coupled to the first and second remote systems, the master system including:

means for storing a first remote boot image and a second remote image;

means for redirecting a boot operation of the first remote system to the first remote boot image; and

means for redirecting a boot operation of a second remote system to the second remote boot image.

24. An apparatus comprising:

means for booting a master system;

means for programming a slave controller to relay a boot request from a slave processor to a master system controller;

means for programming the master system controller to relay the boot request to a storage mechanism;

means for programming the master system controller to relay a boot image from the storage mechanism to the slave controller;

means for programming the slave controller to relay the boot image to the slave processor or memory associated with the slave processor; and

means for booting the slave processor with the boot image.

25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said means for programming the slave controller to relay the boot request includes means for assigning one or more addresses to the slave controller.

26. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said means for programming the slave controller to relay the boot request includes means for programming the slave controller to allow access to one or more internal registers of the slave controller.

27. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said means for programming the master controller to relay the boot request includes means for programming the master controller to redirect slave boot addresses.

28. The apparatus of claim 24, comprising means for determining a corresponding boot software for the slave processor.

29. The apparatus of claim 28, comprising means for identifying the slave processor.